

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /032 W
-----070417Z 042921 /15

R 060925Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0750
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
CTF SIX ZERO
USS JOHN F KENNEDY
COMSIXTHFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0341

CAIRO ALSO FOR ALUSNA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, EG
SUBJECT: VISIT OF USS JOHN F KENNEDY

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0340

1. ALEXANDRIA PORT VISIT CONCLUDED TODAY (REFTEL) WAS OUTSTANDING SUCCESS IN A NUMBER OF WAYS, ALL CONTRIBUTING POSITIVELY TO EGYPTIAN/AMERICAN RELATIONS AND TO US INTERESTS.
2. ONE MAJOR FACTOR WAS SHEER SIZE -- A VERY GLAMOROUS SHIP AND A VERY NUMEROUS CREW, JFK'S 5,000 BEING OVER FOUR TIMES THE SIZE OF ANY PREVIOUS VISITORS. THIS HAD ALL CONCERNED "RUNNING SCARED", SO PLANNING WAS PROBABLY MORE DETAILED AND FINER TUNED.
3. BECAUSE SO MUCH MORE HAD TO BE DONE, MANY MORE PEOPLE ON BOTH THE EGYPTIAN AND THE AMERICAN SIDE FOUND THEMSELVES PERSONALLY INVOLVED.

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4. ON THE EGYPTIAN SIDE THERE WAS ALSO A NEW SPIRIT. THIS MAY ONLY REFLECT CURRENT REALITIES OF EGYPTIAN DIFFICULTIES WITH THE USSR AND LIBYA BUT SEEMED TO GO BEYOND THAT TO A SINCERE EXPRESSION OF EVER-INCREASING PRO-AMERICANISM AMONG LOCAL EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS (THE MAN IN THE STREET HAS SEEMED QUITE PRO-AMERICAN FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW US-EGYPT RELATIONSHIP).

5. EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS THE AMAZING TURNOUT OF HIGH RANKING MILITARY AND GOE OFFICIALS FOR THE CONSUL GENERAL'S RECEPTION MAY 2, INCLUDING A NUMBER WHO ASKED TO BE ADDED TO OUR GUEST LIST. ANOTHER WAS AT ADMIRAL REFAAT'S RECEPTION MAY 5, WHEN FOR THE FIRST TIME THE ARE NAVY INCLUDED WIVES. AT BOTH THESE MAJOR FUNCTIONS AS WELL AS AT TWO FORMAL SHIPBOARD FUNCTIONS, THE RELAXED FRIENDLINESS ON BOTH SIDES INDICATED GOOD ATMOSPHERICS, "GOOD VIBES".

6. IN PREVIOUS SHIP VISITS WE HAVE USUALLY LIMITED VISITORS ABOARD TO ARE NAVY, A FEW GOE OFFICIALS, NATO CONSULAR CORPS, AMERICAN SCHOOL STUDENTS AND OCCASIONALLY THE PRESS. THIS WAS ALL SMALLER SHIPS COULD HANDLE. JFK, HOWEVER, HAD THE CAPACITY TO HANDLE MANY MORE AND MANAGED TO RECEIVED ALMOST ANYONE WHO HAD SOME VALID EXCUSE (RETIRED ARE NAVY, SHIPPING TRADE, MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN GENERAL) INCLUDING A GROUP VISIT FOR 100 SEA SCOUTS WHO NUMBERED ALMOST 200 BY THE TIME THE BOATS WERE FILLED. THIS "OPENNESS" RECEIVED VERY FAVORABLE COMMENT.

7. SPECIAL MENTION SHOULD BE MADE (AND MANY EGYPTIANS AND OTHERS WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO PRAISE THIS) OF THE EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOR OF THE MEN ON LEAVE. THIS NUMBERED ABOUT 1200 TO 1600 ASHORE IN ALEXANDRIA EACH DAY AND ON THREE DAYS OVER 1000 MORE ON DAY TRIPS TO CAIRO. THERE WERE NO RPT NO MAJOR INCIDENTS AND VERY FEW, MOSTLY AMUSING, MINOR ONES. THIS CAN BE CREDITED TO EXCELLENT PRE-ARRIVAL BRIEFING, VERY PROFESSIONAL SHORE PATROL WORK, BUT ABOVE ALL TO THE QUALITY AND SELF-DISCIPLINE OF THE CREW.

8. WE FEEL FAR MORE COMPETENT NOW TO MEET INCREASED NUMBER OF USN
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VISITS GOE IS NOW AUTHORIZING. WE BELIEVE ARE NAVY AND PEOPLE OF ALEXANDRIA AWAIT NEXT VISIT WITH PREASURABLE ANTICIPATION.
CHASE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL SHIPS, JOHN F KENNEDY USS, PORT CALLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALEXAN00341
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770160-0793
Format: TEL
From: ALEXANDRIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770587/aaaacxfp.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 97cd8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ALEXANDRIA 340
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2622088
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF USS JOHN F KENNEDY
TAGS: MARR, MILI, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/97cd8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009